

being placed over the bed portion and panels to define an enclosure] to accommodate the neonatal infant; and

at least one opening being configured to have a self-acting closure located through the cover and permitting manual access into the enclosure.

2. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 1, wherein the self-acting closure comprises a manually penetrable diaphragm configured to open as an object or human hand is urged therethrough.

3. (As Filed) The barrier of Claim 2, wherein the diaphragm comprises a resiliently flexible material extending across the opening and having slits therein.

4. (As Filed) The barrier of Claim 3, wherein the slits extend radially outward having a common junction point located substantially centrally of the flexible opening.

5. (Previously Amended) The barrier of claim 1, further comprising a sheet of flexible material positioned proximate to the at least one opening and overlaps the opening to form a seal.

6. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a substantially rectangular sheet, the sheet being pivotally coupled by a flexible seam at each of its edges to flap portions, the flap portions being configured to overhang a support framework to create a substantially thermal neutral environment within said enclosure.

7. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 1, wherein the cover defines a tetrahedral enclosure.

8. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 1, wherein the cover defines a half section of a truncated right circular cylinder enclosure.

9. (As Filed) The barrier of Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises an optically transparent material.

10. (Three Times Amended) A system for providing a neutral thermal environment comprising: [and moisture barrier for use with]

an infant radiant warmer; [including a bedding assembly and a plurality of optically transparent side panels surrounding and extending in a direction up from a mattress upon which an infant can be placed, the barrier comprising:]

a substantially flexible cover defining an enclosed space [enclosure] when disposed over said radiant warmer; [the mattress to accommodate the infant, said cover having a flap portion which is capable of overhanging the side panels to create a substantially enclosed environment;] and

at least one opening located through the substantially flexible cover and permitting manual access into the enclosure.

11. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 10, having a diaphragm providing manually penetrable closure of the at least one opening.

12. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 11, wherein the diaphragm comprises a resiliently flexible sheet extending across the opening and having slits extending radially outward having common junction point located substantially centrally of the flexible opening.

13. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 11, wherein the diaphragm comprises a superposed sheet of flexible material for covering the diaphragm when not in use.

14. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 10, wherein the cover defines a substantially rectangular sheet having a flexible seam at each of its edges coupled to said flap portions.

15. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 10, wherein the cover defines a section of a portion of a right circular cylinder enclosure.

16. (Previously Amended) The barrier of Claim 10, wherein the cover defines a tetrahedral enclosure.

17. (Three Times Amended) A thermal and moisture barrier for use with an incubator including an incubation chamber, having [and] optically transparent side walls with [having] armholes formed thereon, [therein] surrounding a mattress upon which an infant can be placed, the barrier comprising:

a substantially flexible cover including an edge portion which contacts said mattress to define an enclosed space within said incubation chamber having a substantially neutral thermal environment [defining an enclosure when disposed over the mattress to accommodate the infant, said cover includes an edge portion, the entire edge portion

contacting said mattress to create a seal with the mattress and provide a substantially neutral thermal and humidified environment therein]; and

a plurality of openings disposed on a portion of the cover and communicating with the enclosed space [enclosure], wherein each opening includes a [closing assembly, said closing assembly including a resiliently flexible sheet extending across the opening and having slits extending radially outward having a common junction point located substantially centrally of the flexible opening which provide] self-acting closure to preserve the neutral thermal [and humidified] environment.

Please cancel Claims 21-23.

Please add new claims 24-26 as follows:

--24. (New) A system for providing an environmental barrier comprising:
a specialized heating apparatus for use in the care of a neonatal infant;
a substantially flexible cover defining an enclosed space when disposed over said specialized heating apparatus which can accommodate the neonatal infant; and
at least one opening being configured to have a self-acting closure located through the substantially flexible cover to permit manual access into the enclosed space.

25. (New) A system for providing a neutral thermal environment comprising:
an infant radiant warmer including a plurality of optically transparent side guards;
a substantially flexible cover defining an enclosed space when placed over said plurality of optically transparent side guards; and
at least one opening located through the substantially flexible cover to permit manual access to the enclosed space.

26. (New) A system for providing a neutral thermal environment comprising:
an incubator including an incubation chamber having optically transparent side walls having armholes surrounding a mattress upon which an infant can be placed;
a substantially flexible cover disposed over the mattress to define a neutral thermal microenvironment within said incubation chamber; and